NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 318 South Sixth Street

Springfield, IL 62701 Tel: 217/492-4450 RODGER A. HEATON
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release February 3, 2006

Contact: Richard N. Cox Assistant U.S. Attorney (217) 373-5875

Three Kankakee Area Men Indicted in Separate Drug Cases

Urbana, IL - A federal grand jury today returned indictments charging three Kankakee men with possession of more than five grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

Those charged include: **Anthony L. Wright**, age 25, 445 N. Greenwood Ave., Kankakee, possession of more than five grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute on December 21, 2005;

Tony T. Laster, 39, St. Anne, Illinois possession of more than five grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute on December 27, 2005; and,

Eugene Griffin, 57, 267 S. Washington, Kankakee possession of more than five grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute on January 8, 2006.

If convicted, each defendant faces a minimum statutory penalty of 10 years imprisonment to life, a fine of \$4,000,000 and a minimum eight years of supervised release.

The three cases were investigated by the Kankakee Metropolitan Enforcement Group and are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard N. Cox.

The three men, who are currently in state custody, will be transferred to federal custody for arraignment in federal court in Urbana at a date to be determined by the U.S. District Clerk.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

####